

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:ASHANKLE

APPROVED BY S/S-O:ASHANKLE

S/S:F. ORTIZ

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Z 041347Z APR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE PASS PALM SPRINGS FOR SEC'Y KISSINGER

S E C R E T STATE 076279

EXDIS

TOSEC 05

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI BANGKOK
COMMUSAG FROM PHNOM PENH 04 APR 75:

QUOTE S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 5982

EXDIS

STATE PASS SECDEF AND CJCS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH: EAGLE PULL

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 5932 (NOTAL); (B) CINCPAC 030150 Z
APR 75 (NOTAL); (C) STATE 075058; (D) JCS 040001 Z APR 75;
(E) CINCPAC 032144 Z APR 75 (NOTAL)

1. YESTERDAY WE REDUCED OUR POTENTIAL EVACUEE FIGURE BY 73.

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2. TODAY WE HOPE TO REDUCE THE FIGURE BY AN ADDITIONAL 42

APPROXIMATELY.

3. THE PROJECTION FOR TOMORROW (APRIL 5) IS THAT A MINIMUM OF AN ADDITIONAL 106 WILL DEPART CAMBODIA.

4. THE ABOVE REDUCTIONS ARE THEE MAXIMUM WE CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH ACTIONS TAKEN WITH GROUPS OVER WHICH WE HAVE DIRECT CONTROL OR INFLUENCE.

5. YESTERDAY WE BROUGHT IN TEN PERSONNEL WHO WILL DIRECT THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE OPERATION FOR EAGLE PULL UNDER ANY OF THE OPTIONS. COLONEL BATCHELDER IS THUS ON HAND AND IS REVIEWING PLANS FOR HIS PART IN THE OPERATION.

6. WE CANNOT BEGIN TO MOVE OUT KHMER EMPLOYEES OF THE USG OR KEY INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL NOW, USING OPTION ONE OF EAGLE PULL, OR EVEN BY USING OUR AVAILABLE FIXED WING ASSETS SUCH AS THE USAID CHARTER PLANE, THE MILITARY C-130 ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHT OR THE DATT AIRCRAFT. TO DO SO WOULD CAUSE AN ALMOST IMMEDIATE COLLAPSE IN KHMER MORALE, AS THEY WOULD INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THE BEGINNING OF OUR OWN COMPLETE EVACUATION. WE WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY INTO OPTION TWO OR THREE OF EAGLE PULL. THE KHmers TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVACUATION CAN ONLY BE INFORMED JUST PRIOR TO ACTUAL EXECUTION OF THE PLAN. THEIR DEPARTURE HAS TO BE SIMULTANEOUS WITH OUR OWN. OPTION TWO WAS DETERMINED INFEASIBLE, SINCE CONTROL OVER THE POTENTIAL THOUSANDS OF KHMER WHO MIGHT THRONG TO POCHENTONG WOULD RAPIDLY EXCEED OUR GROUND SECURITY FORCE'S POTENTIAL, ALL OF WHICH MUST BE CONCENTRATED FOR OPTION THREE.

7. A THREE-HOUR COUNTRY TEAM MEETING THIS MORNING (APRIL 4) IN WHICH WE ANALYZED ALL OPTIONS OPEN TO US UNDER CURRENT SECURITY CONDITIONS LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE SHOULD PLAN TO EXECUTE EAGLE PULL "CLOSE IN REPEAT CLOSE IN" OPTION THREE (LIFT BY HELICOPTER ASSETS ONLY) WITH FIRST CHOPPER TO ARRIVE AT LZ HOTEL AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS LOCAL SUNDAY, APRIL 6. OUR TENTATIVE PLAN IS TO INFORM OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES AT 0700 HOURS THAT

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MORNING OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEPART WITH US. THEY WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO COLLECT THEIR FAMILIES, RETURN TO CHANCERY FASTEST POSSIBLE AND DEPART ABOARD FIRST HELICOPTERS TO ARRIVE. AT 0700 HOURS ALSO I PLAN TO INFORM ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER HANG THUN HAK THAT WE ARE EVACUATING AND THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE WITH US A LIMITED NUMBER OF KIP'S AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. I WILL LEAVE IT

TO THEM TO SELECT WHO SHOULD BE OFFERED THE CHANCE TO GO AND
TO DETERMINE FROM THEM IF THEY WISH TO GO WITH US. I
WILL TELL THEM THAT THEY MUST BE AT THE CHANCERY BY
11 A.M. OR IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO GO WITH US.

8. WE ARE STILL EXPERIENCING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN
PREDICTING THE NUMBER OF KHmers WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE
OUT. COLONEL BATCHELDER INFORMS ME THAT IN TWO LIFTS,
WITH RECYCLING OF THE CHOPPERS, WE CAN TAKE OUT A MAXIMUM
OF 1200 EVACUEES PLUS THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE WHICH WILL COME
IN ABOARD THE FIRST CHOPPERS. IT MAY BE THAT WE
WILL HAVE TO ATTEMPT TO RECYCLE AGAIN AND HAVE A THIRD LIFT,
BUT THIS WOULD BE UNDESIRABLEM EACH RECYCLING WILL TAKE AT LEAST
THREE HOURS, SO BETWEEN 0900 WHEN THE FIRST CHOPPERS ARRIVE AND
1800, WHEN IT GETS DARK, WE COULD, WITH LUCK RUN
THREE CYCLES. WE INTEND TO COMPLETE OPERATION IN AS
SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE, BUT AT VERY LATEST BY 1800
HOURS SUNDAY, APRIL 6. THE REASON WE HAVE CHOSEN 0900
TIME FOR START-UP OF EVACUATION BY CHOPPERS IS
THAT WE NEED TO HAVE ON HAND IN ASSEMBLY AREAS
UPWARDS OF 300 EVACUEES TO FILL THE CHOPPERS THAT
WILL BE BRINGING IN THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE.
TO REACH FIGURE OF 300 WE NEED TO INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF KHmers, I.E., FROM AMONGST THOSE WHO GOT
THE WORD AT 0700.

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE BY FLASH CABLE. DEAN
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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